

Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)

Information for Health Departments on Reporting a Person Under Investigation (PUI), or Presumptive Positive and Laboratory-Confirmed Cases of COVID-19

Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) is a disease caused by the newly emerged coronavirus SARS-CoV-2. To prevent further spread of SARS-CoV-2 and to collect information to better understand the virus and its impact on health outcomes, CDC is working with state and local health departments to identify persons under investigation (PUI) in the United States and test them for the virus that causes COVID-19. To assist our partners, CDC has developed a form that provides a standardized approach to reporting PUIs, presumptive positive cases (individuals with at least one respiratory specimen that tested positive for the virus that causes COVID-19 at a state or local laboratory) and laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 cases (individuals with at least one respiratory specimen that tested positive for the virus that causes COVID-19 at a CDC laboratory). These data are needed to track the impact of the outbreak and inform public health response.

The [COVID-19 Persons under Investigation and Case Report Form](#)  is designed to collect key information on PUIs, presumptive positive cases, and laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 case-patients, including:

- Demographic, clinical, and epidemiologic characteristics
- Exposure and contact history
- Course of clinical illness and care received

Additional resources to assist in the completion and analysis of the COVID-19 Persons under Investigation and Case Report Form are available:

- [COVID-19 Persons Under Investigation and Case Report Form Instructions](#) 
- [Data dictionary](#) 

Tips to submit a report on a PUI, Presumptive Positive Case or Laboratory-Confirmed Case

Healthcare providers who are concerned that a patient may have COVID-19 should contact their [local](#)  or [state](#)  health department immediately for consultation and guidance.

CDC is working closely with state and local health departments around the country to support follow-up of PUI, refer specimens for testing, and follow-up of any presumptive positive or laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 cases. At this time, the following steps should be taken for specimens being tested by CDC:

For jurisdictions that have the capacity to do their own laboratory testing:

For reporting jurisdictions who are able to assign nCoV IDs and monitor PUIs at the jurisdictional level: The jurisdiction should enter all PUIs or Presumptive Cases (persons with a positive test performed locally without CDC lab confirmation) into CDC's electronic reporting system with the jurisdiction-issued nCoV ID, unless other arrangements to transmit data have been made and approved by CDC. If a specimen is tested locally and is negative, please update the person's disposition in CDC's electronic reporting system. If a specimen is tested locally and is positive, please call the CDC EOC Watch desk at 770-488-7100 and notify CDC of the positive result. The specimen will be identified as 'presumptive positive' until the result is confirmed at CDC; send the specimen to CDC for confirmatory testing and update the person's disposition in CDC's electronic reporting system.

For reporting jurisdictions who are not yet able to assign nCoV IDs and monitor PUIs at the jurisdictional level: The jurisdiction should call the CDC EOC Watch desk at 770-488-7100 to receive a CDC-issued nCoV ID, and to complete a PUI and Case Report Form. If the specimen is tested locally and is negative, please email eocevent118@cdc.gov and provide the nCoV ID and test result. If the specimen is tested locally and is positive, please call the CDC EOC Watch desk at 770-488-7100 and notify of the positive result. The specimen will be identified as 'presumptive positive' until the result is confirmed at CDC; send the specimen to CDC for confirmatory testing.

For jurisdictions that do not have capacity to do their own testing and are sending specimens to CDC for testing:

For reporting jurisdictions who are able to assign nCoV IDs and monitor PUIs at the jurisdictional level: The jurisdiction should enter all PUIs into CDC's electronic reporting system with the jurisdiction-issued nCoV IDs, unless other arrangements to transmit data have been made and approved by CDC. Testing results will be returned to the state lab per current protocol.

For reporting jurisdictions who are not yet able to assign nCoV IDs and monitor PUIs at the jurisdictional level: The jurisdiction should call the CDC EOC Watch Desk at 770-488-7100 to obtain a CDC-issued nCoV ID number, complete a PUI and Case Report Form. Testing results will be returned to the state lab per current protocol.

The nCoV ID should be included on all PUI and Case Report Forms and shipping labels.

Please contact your state or territorial health department for more information on submitting reports of PUI, presumptive positive cases, and laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 cases. State or territorial health departments with questions about investigating COVID-19 PUI or cases should contact eocevent118@cdc.gov.